

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 396 - HB 1422

March 9, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes each party to a civil action, or the party's attorney of record, to receive one complete copy of the record, free of charge, from the clerk of the court at the conclusion of the trial.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Decrease Local Revenue – Exceeds \$50,300

Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$45,300*

Assumptions:

- According to the Administrative Office of the Courts' (AOC) Annual Statistical Report, there were 52,509 circuit court dispositions in FY17-18; 5,032 concluded in a trial.
- Under the provisions of this legislation, it is estimated that local courts will need to print 10,064 records (5,032 cases x 2 parties per case).
- The length of a complete copy of the record is unknown, but can be reasonably estimated to be at least 100 pages.
- The standard rate currently charged by clerks is \$0.50 per page.
- It is estimated that at least 10 percent of 10,064, or 1,006, annual printings that will be free under this legislation, have paid the standard rate under current law.
- The recurring decrease in local revenue is estimated to exceed \$50,300 (1,006 printing jobs x 100 minimum pages x \$0.50).
- The cost of paper, ink, and printer maintenance to print a page is estimated to be \$0.05 per page.
- An additional 9,058 (10,064 – 1,006) records will be printed and issued that would not have otherwise been issued under current law.
- The mandatory, recurring increase in local expenditures is estimated to exceed \$45,290 (9,058 x 100 x \$0.05) statewide.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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